



April 6, 2012

Mr. BJ Grieve  
Flathead County Planning Director  
Flathead County Planning and Zoning  
1035 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue West  
Kalispell, MT 59901



RE: Flathead County Solid Waste District Container Site Agency Exemption for New Site  
Located at 14535 Highway 2 East, Essex, MT 59916

Dear Mr. Grieve:

The purpose of this letter is to request an agency exemption, in accordance with MCA 76-2-402, on behalf of Flathead County Solid Waste District (District). The District intends to construct a solid waste container site on three acres of the northern most portion of Tract 1 in HES 823 Ex Rd in T30N, R16W, S33. The ground the District will be purchasing is immediately north of the Red Rocks Gravel Pit on Highway 2 East near Essex, MT. A map showing the proposed facility location is attached to this letter.

The District has been reviewing and modifying our container site facilities and operations over the last ten years as the volume of waste generated in the Flathead increased during the fast paced growth of the last decade. This work consists of site improvements to the facilities and consolidation to assure our rate payers of efficient operations and wise use of citizen's fees. The Highway 2 East corridor currently has three small container sites from Nyack Flats to Essex. After two public meetings with citizens of the canyon and one with the Great Northern Environmental Stewardship Area (GNESA) group the District has decided to consolidate the three sites into one site on three acres that will be purchased from Martin Marietta Materials.

The District is hauls a very small volume of material from the canyon area and has been searching for an acceptable property to purchase. Our sites vary in range from one to four acres. This site has been chosen due to its proximity to the population base in the area and its availability. Martin Marietta Materials has been a willing partner in our negotiations and has agreed to sell the District 1.5 acres and donate another 1.5 acres for the project. They are actively pursuing selling their other ground adjacent to the parcel the District will purchase.

The site will have a gravel pad with gated access road from Highway 2, night security light and will be enclosed with a six foot chain link fence. A five strand electric fence will surround the site to provide effective bear control. Montana Department of Transportation has been consulted and has agreed to provide an approach permit to the District accessing the site from

## FLATHEAD COUNTY SOLID WASTE DISTRICT

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Highway 2. Martin Marietta Materials will have an easement on our access road to enter their remaining property to the south.

Thank you in advance for your help with this project and the District looks forward to the public meeting with the Flathead County Board of Adjustment. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to call me at 758-5912 or Jim Chilton, Flathead County Solid Waste District Operations Manager, at 758-5773.

Respectfully,



David Prunty  
Public Works Director  
Flathead County

APR - 9 2012